

I have a Ph.D. in economics. We can not have a properly working open market economy, nor real democracy, where we can not get full truthful information. People in the US have come to depend upon our TV and newspapers as the source to support these institutions. These sources are assumed to be generally unbiased and presenting both sides of issues by most Americans. That makes it extremely harmful when conglomerate owned biased media has been creeping into a source that is not seen critically.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The bias in Fox News while saying they present "Fair and balanced" reporting is a deceptive trade practice. The actions of Sinclair are equally disturbing and even more hidden to an unsuspecting public.

This not only violates the nature of public airways but significantly undermines the free enterprise system and a workable democracy. Our country is becoming a laughingstock as a democracy. As a disabled veteran I am appalled.

Thank you

Lori Megdal, Ph.D.